THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from some private firms for operation of Road Railers and Piggy Back System for carrying of goods both on rail and road. Under these proposals, the parties will own the wagons as well as the terminals. The parties have been asked to furnish the details in this regard.

Linking of Gandhinagar station with Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Delhi

2438. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gandhinagar station is proposed to be linked with Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Delhi line; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Decision to run direct train from Gandhinagar to Delhi will be taken on completion of Delhi-Ahmedabad MG route into BG.

Issue of Complimentary Passes to the Spouses of Freedom Fighters Samman Pension Holders

2439. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announced that Free Railway Complimentary Card Pass for self and companion shall be issued to Freedom Fighters Samman Pension holders and their widows for life time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such Pass would be issued every year for which freedom fighter would have to go through all formalities; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government consider it necessary to instruct Pass issuing authorities to make such Pass valid till the death of Pass holder thus vindicating the Government of India's decision; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. The pass is granted to a Freedom Fighter or the widow of a Freedom Fighter who is drawing pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme (from Central Revenues), for his/her life time, alongwith one companion.

(b) to (d) In accordance with the scheme of grant of passes, formulated in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs which bears the cost of the passes, the pass is initially issued for a period of one year, to be renewed annually. The procedure of renewal enables deletion, on an annual basis, of the beneficiaries who are no longer alive and also enables maintenance of financial accountal for debiting the cost of the passes to Ministry of Home Affairs. It is, therefore, not feasible to make the pass valid till death of the pass holder, dispensing with the annual revalidation.

Doubling of Railway Lines between Murad nagar and Saharanpur, U.P.

2440. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration doubling of the railway lines between Murad Nagar and Saharanpur (U.P.);

(b) if so, what is the cost of the project; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey is being ordered. Cost will be known after the survey has been completed.

(c) This depends upon the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

Construction of Railway Bridge at Pankha road, Delhi

2441. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people are facing difficulties due to frequent closing of level crossing at Pankha Road, New Delhi Cantt. Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to construct overbridge or underbridge on the above level crossing; and

(c) if so, by when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No such inconvenience has been brought to the notice of the Railway.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal. The system of replacing a busy level crossing by a Road over/under bridge is that the State Goveroments propose the